

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	i
Abstract	ii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Tables	vii

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Statement of the Problem	
1.1.1 The English Language in Pre-Independent Malaya and Post-Independent Malaya	1
1.1.2 The Current Status of English in the Malaysian Education Domain	2
1.1.3 English Language Competency and Proficiency Among Malaysian Students	3
1.2 Background to the Study	7
1.2.1 Lexis	7
1.2.2 Words	9
1.2.3 Meanings	10
1.2.4 Different kinds of Meaning	11
1.3 The Importance of Homophones in the Learning of English	13
1.4 Homophones	15
1.5 The Homophones Investigated in this Study	18
1.6 The Pilot Study	20
1.7 Types of Errors Made by Students in the Pilot Study	23
1.8 Significance of the Study	25
1.9 Limitations of the Pilot Study	26
1.10 Objectives of the Study	27

Chapter 2 Literature Review

2.0 Introduction	28
2.1 Second Language (L2) Learning and Acquisition	28
2.1.1 The Importance of Lexis in L2 Acquisition /Learning	30
2.2 Semantic Theory and L2 Lexical Development	32

2.2.1	Theories of Lexical Semantics	32
2.2.2	Katz's Semantic Theory	33
2.2.3	The Jackendoff Theory	34
2.2.4	The Fuzziness of Word-Meaning	36
2.3	Cross-Linguistic Differences in Word-Meaning Perception	39
2.4	Theoretical Framework	41
2.4.1	Introduction	41
2.4.2	Errors	41
2.4.3	Errors in Second Language Acquisition	42
2.5	Error Analysis	43
2.6	Types of Errors	44
2.6.1	Intralingual Errors	44
2.6.2	Interlingual Errors	46
2.6.3	Global and Local Errors	46
2.7	Studies of Lexical Errors in L2 Acquisition	46
2.7.1	Studies of Lexical Errors in L2 Acquisition in Malaysia and South East Asia	48
2.8	The Study of Homophones Using the EA Framework	52

Chapter 3 Research Design and Methodology

3.0	Introduction	53
3.1	Methodology	54
3.1.1	Data Collection	55
3.1.2	Sample Respondents	55
3.1.3	Test Instruments	55
3.1.3.1	Test 1	56
3.1.3.2	Test 2	56
3.1.3.3	Test 3	56
3.1.3.4	Test 4	57
3.1.4	Administration of the Test Instruments	57
3.1.5	The Homophones Tested	58
3.1.6	Questionnaire	60

Chapter 4 Data Analysis

4.0 Introduction	61
4.1 Analysis of Test Results	62
4.1.1 Analysis of Test 1 Results	62
4.1.2 Analysis of Test 2 Results	65
4.1.3 Analysis of Test 3 Results	68
4.1.4 Analysis of Test 4 Results	71
4.2 Analysis of the Use of Each Homophone	76
4.3 Types of Errors	87
4.4 Causes of Errors	89

Chapter 5 Pedagogical Suggestions and Conclusion

5.0 Summary	92
5.1 Pedagogical Implications	93
5.2 Conclusion	99

Bibliography **100**

Appendix A - Pilot Test 1	104
Pilot Test 2	107
Pilot Test 3	111
Appendix B - Test 1	114
Test 2	116
Test 3	119
Test 4	121
Appendix C - Questionnaire	127
Appendix D - The Homophone Page	130
Appendix E - Enrichment Exercises	141